United Nations

Press Release

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General calls on States to ratify or accede to, as soon as possible, 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs -- which he calls "cornerstone" of international cooperation against drug abuse.

- Secretary-General appoints Canadian national as Force Commander of military component of United Nations Mission for Referendum in Western Sahara.

- Margaret Shields of New Zealand appointed Director of Research and Training Institute for Women.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has issued a message on the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to be observed at Headquarters tomorrow, 26 June.

The Secretary-General said in the message that over the past year, the international community had renewed its commitment to join forces and to respond energetically to the global threat of drug trafficking. He drew attention in that regard to the creation of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme which would integrate fully the structures and functions of three existing drug abuse control units located in Vienna. This new Programme, he said, would enable the United Nations to provide effective leadership and to play a major role in the international drug control effort.

The Secretary-General called on the international community to redouble its efforts and to take the necessary measures to ensure that all States ratify or accede as soon as possible to the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which entered into force in November 1990.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

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The Secretary-General announced today the appointment of Major-General Armand Roy of Canada as the Force Commander of the military component of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), established by the Security Council on 29 April.

Major-General Roy has served in the various posts within the Canadian Army since 1964, when he was commissioned after completing his military training.

From October 1968 to April 1969, he served as Adjutant of the Canadian contingent in the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and against as Company Commander of UNFICYP for a 10-month period in 1973.

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The Secretary-General has appointed Margaret Shields to be Director of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. She will succeed Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic who is currently the Director of Natural Resources and Energy Division in the Department of Technical Cooperation and Development (DTCD).

A national of New Zealand, Mrs. Shields will be the second Director of the Institute, which is an autonomous institution within the United Nations system, funded entirely by voluntary contributions and established to carry out research training and information activities worldwide to promote women as key agents of development. She was formerly Minister of Women's Affairs in her country and had previously held other Cabinet posts.

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